

Wednesday 19 August 2020

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Opaheke School

Kia ora koutou,

**Principal: Sean Valvoi**

Although there is nothing urgent I need to inform you about, I thought it timely to provide you with an update ahead of the next big announcement on Friday.

## Thanks for Your Support

I would like to continue to express my thanks to all parents and caregivers who are caring for their children at home. This is not always easy, especially if you are having to work from home as well. This has meant we only require two bubbles at school, and we can keep the number of staff at school to an absolute minimum.

An additional thank you to our bubble families who, when there is an adult available at home, keep their children at home. This helps reduce our daily numbers and makes things more manageable for our bubble teachers who are juggling online learning alongside classroom work, with a range of students.

We have two office staff who tag in and out, three in the Senior Leadership Team who also tag in and out, so there are two on site at a time. We also have a Team Leader assisting in this capacity. There are two Teachers and two Teacher Aides per bubble who do a job share during the week. We have a total of 15 students between the two bubbles.

## Devices for Families

We are pleased that we have been able to issue almost 100 school devices to families. This is a fantastic effort and I would like to thank Mrs Laing, Mrs van der Klip and the office staff for working hard to make this happen. The issuing of devices has now ended. I hope that these devices will help students learn more effectively at home and enable them to participate in video meetings with their class and teacher.

## Additional Distance Learning Resources

Once again the Ministry of Education has their distance learning website [Learning from home](#). Home Learning TV / Papa Kāinga TV is also back to support learning for children 2 to 11 years while Auckland remains at Level 3. Home Learning TV / Papa Kāinga TV will take over TVNZ Duke's daytime schedule 9am to 1pm on weekdays. Duke is available on Freeview channel 13, Sky and Vodafone TV channel 23. All earlier episodes of Home Learning TV / Papa Kāinga TV remain available on TVNZ OnDemand. This should help to supplement what is being provided through school.

## Rescheduled Teacher Only Day

In case you missed Saturday's update, the Teacher Only Day scheduled for this Friday has been postponed. We will inform you soon when a new date has been set. We are holding off on making a firm decision to either cancel or set postponement dates for major events this term, until we have more information about future alert levels. As soon as decisions have been made, we will be quick to inform you.

## Preparation for Level 2

We were pre-prepared for the extension of Alert Level 3 and we have already begun preparations at Alert Level 2, for when the decision is made to move down levels, as we know what to expect. In preparation for the return to school I would encourage you to download the [NZ COVID Tracer App](#). At Alert Level 2 this will be available at the school entrance gates and parents wishing to enter the school site can use the app to scan the QR code instead of signing the register.

We will send out a shortened newsletter on Friday and on the front page will be my next short message to parents and caregivers.

Be smart, stay safe and be kind to yourself and others. Join us to stand against unkind keyboard warriors by remaining kind in words and actions.

Nga Mihi,



Sean Valvoi

Ph: 09 298 5410  
Email: [office@opaheke.school.nz](mailto:office@opaheke.school.nz)  
Tasman Drive, Papakura 2113